Seoina: A Speedlang

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1 Introduction

Seoina is a speedlang created for the 6th (biennial? semiannual?) speedlang challenge.

2 Phonology

2.1 Inventory

Seoina has fifteen consonant phonemes.

	Labial	Coronal	Dorsal	Guttural
Stop	p	t d	k g	q
Fricative	f	s		h
Nasal	m	n		
Liquid	w	l r	j	

- /f s h q/ become [v z ɦ ɢ] intervocalically

- /r q/ become [s g] word-finally

- /p t k q/ may be aspirated word-initially or in stressed syllables

- /m/ becomes [w̃] and nasalizes the previous vowel word-finally

- /t d/ become [ts dz] before /i/

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		ɯ u
Mid	e ø		o
Low		a	

- /e ø o a/ can become [ɛ ɵ ɔ ɐ] in closed unstressed syllables

- /i/ becomes [ɪ] after /q/

Seoina also has a rich system of falling diphthongs including closing and centering diphthongs.

Nucleus		Offglide			
		j	w	ɥ	ə
Front		ej		øɥ	iə
Back	Unrnd	aj	aw		ɯə
	Rnd		ow	oɥ	uə

2.2 Common Synchronic Processes

In stressed open syllables or when doubled, monophthongs /i e ø a ɯ u o/ become diphthongs /iə ej øɥ aw ɯə uə ow/, resulting in productive stem changes when affixation results in moved stress.

3 Verbs

Seoina finite verbs inflect for past and non-past tense and agree with the number, person, and noun class of the nominative argument (see section 4.2 for more information on noun class agreement). Constructions with auxiliary verbs are used to mark modality, evidentiality, and voice.

The verb ending paradigm is shown below. An acute accent indicates that the ending attracts stress to the last syllable of the word.

	Non-Past		Past	
	SG	PL	SG	PL
1	-n	-m	´-n	´-m
2	-l	-m	´-l	´-m
3ɪ	-s	-ia	-(r)ias	-ia
3ɪɪ	-s-te	-te	-(r)ia-te	-i-te
3ɪɪɪ	-si	-si	-(r)ia-si	-i-si
3ɪᴠ	-s-ku	-ku	-(r)ia-ku	-i-ku
3ᴠ	-r-i	-i	-(r)ai	-ia
3ᴠɪ	-r-u	-u	-(r)au	-eua

3.1 Tense

Seoina distinguishes between two tenses: past tense and non-past. The non-past used for events that are currently occurring or will occur after the utterance time.

(1) **Hisira as teoi.**

hisi	-ra	a	-s	teoi
child	NOM	*eat*	3S.I.NPST	*fruit*

"The child is eating some fruit."

(2) **Kas fo ama ia haqiara alia ku minda?**

kas	=fo	ama	ia	hauqi	-ra	al	-ia	ku	min	-da
when	*here*	2P	CL	*guest*	NOM	*arrive*	3P.I.NPST	CL	*city*	ABL

"When will your guests arrive from the city?"

The past tense used for events that occured before the time of utterance or states that held before the utterance time.

(3) **Hisira sousias lei tida.**

hisi	-ra	sos	-ias	lei	tik	-da
child	NOM	*fall*	3S.I.PST	CL	*tree*	ABL

"The child fell from the tree."

(4) **Nau lua alaum.**

na	-u	=lua	al	-m
river	DAT	*there*	*arrive*	1P.PST

"We arrived at the river."

With null-copula sentences, there's no verb that can take the past-tense marking. Sentences like this are unspecified for time and are generally understood to refer to To specifically mark past tense, speakers use temporal adverbs.

(5) **Teoira so s'ia hisi.**

teoi	-ra	so	s=	ia	hisi
fruit	NOM	*before*	*with*	CL	*child*

"The child had the fruit (before)."

3.2   Negation

Basic negation of a sentence is marked with the second-position clitic **meo**. Seoina shows negative concord, where the verb takes the suffix **-me** to mark negation elsewhere in the sentence, including negative quantifiers such as **fia** *'none (cl. I)'* and negative adverbs such as **tomu** *'never, not yet'*. Multiple negative words can cooccur in one sentence.

(6) **So meo pemeirias peu a mos.**

so	=meo	pei	-me	-rias	peu	a	mos
before	NEG	*tend.to*	NEG	3S.I.PST	INF	*eat*	*sausage*

"He didn't use to eat sausage."

(7) **Fiara hisira fendames s'pi heuasa.**

fia	-ra	hisi	-ra	fenda	-me	-s	s=	pi	heuasa
no.I	NOM	*child*	NOM	*win*	NEG	3S.I.NPST	*with*	CL	*game*

"No child is winning the game."

(8) **N'ili tomu lua istoura almia ku mini.**

n=	ili	=tomu	=lua	isto	-ra	al	-me	-ia	ku	min	-i
1S	CL	*never*	*there*	*friend*	NOM	*arrive*	NEG	3P.I.PST	CL	*city*	DAT

"My friends never arrived in the city."

(9) **Fiara tomu wakmeirias fte qa.**

fia -ra = tomu wak -me rias fte qa
no.I NOM *never* *see* NEG 3s.I.PST *no.II* *fork*

"Nobody ever saw any forks."

3.3 Periphrastic Aspect Constructions

Seoina has several periphrastic aspect constructions using locative expressions with nominalized verbs. A locative expression with the preposition **deo** *'in, on'* marks a progressive aspect where an event is currently ocurring at the topic time. The agent can be the subject of the locative expression, in which case the patient comes after the verbal noun, or the patient can be the subject of the locative expression, in which case the agent is optionally reintroduced in the ablative case. It is only possible to use this construction with durative verbs. Sentence 12 is ungrammatical because **sou** *'to finish reading, to read up'* is a punctual verb unlike its durative counterpart **ou** *'to read'*.

(10) **Tsaura d'ou loi teo.**

tsa -ra d= ou loi teo
boy NOM *in* *read* CL *book*

"The boy is reading the book."

(11) **Teoira deo tsauda ou.**

teo -ra deo= tsa -da ou
book NOM *in* *boy* ABL *read*

"The book is being read by the boy."

(12) *****Tsaura deo sou loi teo.**

tsa -ra deo= sou loi teo
boy NOM *in* *read* CL *book*

Intended: "The boy is reading the book."

The preposition **haura** *'to, for'* is used to mark a prospective showing that the preparation for an action has already begun or that the subject intends to do something. The construction with **haura** is also commonly used for future-in-the-past.

(13) **Anra haur'a suaneu.**

an -ra haura= a suaneu
1s NOM *for* *eat* *oatmeal*

"I'm about to eat oatmeal." (5moyd 1252)

3.4 Infinitives

Infinitives are constructed with the verbal noun preceded by one of the two particles **peu** or **na**. When the subject of an infinitive verb corefers with the subject of the matrix verb, the particle **peu** is used.

(14) **Salauda peu a fo uo teoi.**

saula	-da	peu	a	fo	uo	teoi
saula	ABL	INF	*eat*	*this*	CL	*fruit*

"Saula wants to each this piece of fruit."

(15) **So meo pemeirias peu a mos.**

so	=meo	pei	-me	-rias	peu	a	mos
before	NEG	*tend.to*	NEG	3S.I.PST	INF	*eat*	*sausage*

"He didn't use to eat sausage."

When the subject of an infinitive verb is not the same as the matrix verb, the particle **na** is used.

(16) **Elaura si torau n'es s'ili hauqi!**

ela	-ra	=si	to	-rau	na=	es	sa=	ili	hauqi
wine	NOM	*really*	PASS	3S.VI.PST	INF=	*drink*	*with=*	CL	*guest*

"All the wine really was drunk by the guests!"

(17) **Ama li skouria na wak ili soura?**

ama	=li	sko	-ria	na	wak	ili	soura
2P	Q	*help*	3P.I.PST	INF	*see*	CL	*ring*

"Did they help you find your rings?"

(18) **Hilouda na lesta.**

hialo	-da	na	lesta
dumpling	ABL	INF	*eat*

"The dumplings need (to be) eaten."

There are several minimal pairs where the choice of infinitive marker selects whether the infinitive is controlled by the subject or object of the matrix verb.

(19) **Salaura lau melias s'ia isto peu aro.**

saula	-ra	=lau	mel	-ias	s=	ia	isto	peu	aro
Saula	NOM	*there*	*ask*	3S.I.PST	3S	CL	*friend*	INF	*enter*

"Saula asked her friend to come in."
Context: Saula wants to come in, so she asked her friend for permission.

(20) **Salaura lau melias s'ia isto n'aro.**

saula	-ra	=lau	mel	-ias	s=	ia	isto	na=	aro
Saula	NOM	*there*	*ask*	3S.I.PST	3S	CL	*friend*	INF	*enter*

"Saula asked her friend to come in."
Context: Saula wants her friend to enter the room, so she invited him in.

3.5 Auxiliary Verbs

3.5.1 Hearsay

The verb **ksou** marks that the speaker is presenting a statement as someone else's beliefs. In matrix clauses it behaves like a hearsay evidential marker. When used with modals, it shifts the modal base from being described by the speaker's knowledge or beliefs about the world to what they perceive to be someone else's. It's fairly common in embedded clauses describing someone else's statements or beliefs, where it is always embedded with a **ka**-series complementizer rather than an **as**-series complementizer.

3.5.2 Tendency

Tendency or habits are marked with the verb **pei** *'to tend to do, to have used to do, to usually do'.*

(21) **So meo pemeirias peu a mos.**

so	=meo	pei	-me	-rias	peu	a	mos
before	NEG	*tend.to*	NEG	3S.I.PST	INF	*eat*	*sausage*

"He didn't use to eat sausage."

(22) **So peim peu kiapa ka n'ia toura touto.**

so	pei	-m	peu	kiapa	ka	n=	ia	tos	-a
before	*tend.to*	1S.PST	INF	*think*	CMP.NFCT	1S	CL	*teacher*	NOM

touto
speaker's.uncle

"I used to think my teacher was my uncle."

3.5.3 Passive Voice

The passive voice is marked with the auxiliary verb **to**, which selects the infinitive marker **na**. The agent may be optionally reintroduced as an object of the preposition **sa**.

(23) **Hosia ftireira ho hiloura toneua n'a.**

hosia	ftiere	-ra	=ho	hielo	-ra	to	-eua	na=	a
*all.*v	*olive*	NOM	*and*	*dumpling*	NOM	PASS	3P.VI.PST	INF	*eat*

"All the olives and dumplings were eaten."

(24) **Elaura si torau n'es s'ili hauqi!**

ela	-ra	=si	to	-rau	na=	es	sa=	ili	hauqi
wine	NOM	*really*	PASS	3S.VI.PST	INF=	*drink*	*with=*	CL	*guest*

"All the wine really was drunk by the guests!"

4 Nouns

Seoina has a large open class of nouns, which contains people, places and things, but also properties, qualities, and some states. For quality words, there are often pairs such as **kala** *'a happy person'* and **kalau** *'happiness'*, where one word is used primarily to refer to the quality itself and the other word is used both as a modifier and as a word to refer to things that possess that quality. Nouns mark four cases and belong to one of six noun classes. Number is not marked on noun phrases, but verbs agree with the number of their subject, suggesting that number is a property of noun phrases in Seoina.

4.1 Case

Seoina nouns decline for four cases: absolutive, nominative, dative, and ablative.

4.1.1 Absolutive

The absolutive is unmarked and is the citation form for nouns. It is used when mentioning things or answering questions with a bare noun phrase.

(25) **Keira soumai? Lei tig.**

keira	som	-ai	lei	tig
what.NOM	*fall*	3S.V	CL	*tree*

"What fell? (It was) the tree."

It's used for the direct object of a transitive verb.

(26) **Hisira as teoi.**

hisi	-ra	a	-s	teoi
child	NOM	*eat*	3S.I.NPST	*fruit*

"The child is eating some fruit."

It's used as the object of most prepositions.

(27) **Am s'te qa.**

a	-m	s=	te	qa
eat	1S.NPST	*with*	CL	*fork*

"I'm eating with the fork."

(28) **Siara li kiapas ken auna d'oure?**

sia	-ra	=li	kiap	-as	ken	aun	-a	d=	oure
3s	NOM	Q	*think*	3s.i.npst	cmp.1nfct	1s	NOM	*in*	*house*

"Does she think I'm at home?"

Possesion is marked using a 'possessor CL possessee' structure, where the classifier used is selected by the possessee.

(29) **Hisira ho s'ia istoura sadia sia lei teun.**

hisi	-ra	=ho	s=	ia	isto	-ra	sad	-ia	sia	lei	teun
child	NOM	*and*	3s.i	CL	*friend*	NOM	*throw*	3p.i.npst	3p.i	CL	*fish*

"The child and his friends throw their fish."

With the suffix **ki**, the absolutive makes a locational modifier.

(30) **Minki nou kala.**

min	-ki	nou	kala
city.ABS	KI	*person*	*happy*

"The people in the city are happy."

Because the absolutive is the least marked noun form and has no overt marking, I will often leave it unglossed, unless it's important in the example sentence. It can generally be assumed that bare nouns are in the absolutive case.

4.1.2 Nominative

The nominative case is marked with the suffix **-(r)a**. It's used for the subject of intransitive verbs, the agent of intransitive verbs, and the subject of null-copula constructions.

(31) **Hisira as teoi.**

hisi	-ra	a	-s	teoi
child	NOM	*eat*	3s.i.npst	*fruit*

"The child is eating some fruit."

(32) **Hisira sousias lei tida.**

hisi	-ra	sos	-ias	lei	tik	-da
child	NOM	*fall*	3s.i.pst	CL	*tree*	ABL

"The child fell from the tree."

(33) **S'ia istoura tos.**

s=	ia	isto	-ra	tos
3s.i	CL	*friend*	NOM	*teacher*

"His friend is a teacher."

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4.1.3 Dative

The dative case is marked with **-u** for nouns ending in back vowels and **-i** for nouns ending in front vowels. The dative case is used for the recipient or benefactor in ditransitive verbs, motion towards, and as an argument of certain emotional predicates.

(34) **Deon teun amau.**

deo	-n	teun	ama	-u
give	1s.pst	*fish*	2p	dat

"I gave you some fish."

(35) **Aleksia toniate na deo qanoula heaura.**

Aleksi	-i	ton	-iate	na	deo	qano	-a	heia	-ra
Alex	dat	pass	3s.ii.pst	inf	*give*	*oak*	nom	*table*	nom

"Alex was given an oaken table."

(36) **Nau lua alaum.**

na	-u	=lua	al	-m
river	dat	*there*	*arrive*	1p.pst

"We arrived at the river."

Seoina has no verb equivalent to 'to have.' Instead, the dative case is used as the subject of a null-copula construction. With **-ki**, the dative forms a modifier denoting possession of something.

(37) **Kalau hisia isto.**

kala	-u	hisi	-i	isto
happy	dat	*child*	dat	*friend*

"The happy child has friends."

(38) **Waun qauki tam.**

wak	-n	qa	-u	-ki	tam
see	1s.pst	*fork*	dat	ki	*man*

"I saw a man with a fork."

4.1.4 Ablative

The ablative case is marked with the suffix **-da**. It is used to mark motion away from or out of, lack or avoidance of something, and as an argument of certain largely negative emotional predicates.

(39) **Soun lei tida.**

sos	-n	lei	tik	-da
fall	1s.pst	cl	*tree*	abl

"I fell out of the tree." (5moyd 1237)

With **-ki**, the ablative makes a modifier showing lack of something.

(40) **Amra istaki hisi!**

ama	-ra	is	-da	-ki	hisi
2P	NOM	*idea*	ABL	KI	*child*

"You are clueless children!"

Seoina does not have a word for 'to want,' and instead uses another null copula construction with the subject in the ablative and the object in the absolutive. To express that someone wants to perform an action, you can use an ablative subject with an infinitive.

(41) **Adauki hisida teoi.**

ada	-u	-ki	hisi	-da	teoi
hunger	DAT	KI	*child*	ABL	*fruit*

"The hungry child wants fruit."

(42) **Salauda peu a fo uo teoi.**

saula	-da	peu	a	fo	uo	teoi
saula	ABL	INF	*eat*	*this*	CL	*fruit*

"Saula wants to each this piece of fruit."

4.2 Noun Class

Seoina nouns all belong to one of six noun classes. Four of the classes are largely semantically motivated, although there are some exceptions. The remaining two are phonologically determined residue classes. Verbs agree with the noun class of their subject and certain modifiers agree with the noun class of their complement. The noun class of a referent also determines which pronoun is used to refer to it. Although there is some correlation between which classifier a noun selects and its class (at least for the four semantically motivated classes), noun class and classifier systems work independently. In the lexicon, a particular noun's class and most common classifier are specified separately.

- Class **I**: Broadly animate, including people, pets and livestock, some food items (especially 1SG which are edible without being processed, such as fruit)

- Class **II**: Tools, vehicles, furniture, things built by humans generally with multiple joined parts

- Class **III**: Bright things, things in the sky, water, also used for sentential subjects or as a pronoun to refer to propositions

- Class **IV**: Locations, places, cities, rooms

- Class **V**: Residue class for all other nouns where the last vowel in the noun stem is one of /e i ø/

- Class **VI**: Residue class for all other nouns where the last vowel in the noun stem is one of /a u o ɯ/

Verbs agree with the noun class of their subject and the quantifiers **fia** *'none'* and **hosia** *'all'* agree with their complement. If two nouns of the same class are conjoined, then agreement is with that class.

(43) **Hisira ho s'ia istoura alia peu fenda teuani.**

hisi	-ra	=ho	s=	ia	isto	-ra	al	-ia	peu	fenda	teun	-i
child	NOM	*and*	3S	CL	*friend*	NOM	*arrive*	3P.I	INF	*win*	*fish*	DIM

"The child and her friend managed to win the little fish."

(44) **Fiara tomu wakmeirias fte qa.**

fia	-ra	=tomu	wak	-me	rias	fte	qa
no.I	NOM	*never*	*see*	NEG	3S.I.PST	*no.II*	*fork*

"Nobody ever saw any forks."

When two nouns of different classes are conjoined, it is less straighforward. When the subject is a conjunct of nouns in different classes, the verb can never agree with any of the semantically motivated cases. It agrees with whichever of the residue classes **V** or **VI** is specified by the last vowel of the closest conjunct. This means that sometimes changing the order of two conjoined noun phrases can change the verb agreement.

(45) **Qaura ho teoira sousia te heauda.**

qa	-ra	=ho	teoi	-ra	sos	-ia	te	heia	-da
fork	NOM	*and*	*fruit*	NOM	*fall*	3P.V.PST	CL	*table*	ABL

"The fork and the fruit fell off the table."

(46) **Teoira ho qaura souseua te heauda.**

teoi	-ra	=ho	qa	-ra	sos	-eua	te	heia	-da
fruit	NOM	*and*	*fork*	NOM	*fall*	3P.VI.PST	CL	*table*	ABL

"The fruit and the fork fell off the table."

When nouns of different classes are conjoined, the quantifier also agrees with the residue class **V** or **VI** of the closest conjunct. However, since quantifiers come before the noun phrase, this means they agree with the *first* conjoined noun rather than the last. This results in sentences where the quantifier and verb mark agreement with different noun classes, in spite of agreeing with the same conjunction structure.

(47) **Hosia ftireira ho hiloura toneua n'a.**

hosia	ftiere	-ra	=ho	hielo	-ra	ton	-eua	na=	a
all.v	*olive*	NOM	*and*	*dumpling*	NOM	PASS	3P.VI.PST	INF	*eat*

"All the olives and dumplings were eaten."

4.3   Classifiers

Noun classifiers accompany nouns in Seoina in a number of constructions, often but not always marking individuation or picking out specific referents. Some classifiers refer to specific quantities or measurements, but many classifiers are specified lexically or by some salient characteristic of the noun they appear with. Here is a list of several common classifiers in Seoina.

- **ia**: classifier for people, unit of measurement approximately equal to a person's height (~175 cm)

- **uo**: classifier for roundish things, commonly used as a default classifier for objects

- **te**: classifier for tools and furniture, commonly used with class **II** nouns

- **lei**: classifier for long things, trees, some cold-blooded animals such as fish and snakes

- **po**: classifier for warm-blooded animals

- **ku**: classifier for locations, commonly used with class **IV** nouns

- **sek**: classifier for individual grains, seeds, bits of sand

- **pi**: classifier for an event, a time, an occurrence

- **ka**: classifier for periods of rest

- **oi**: classifier for parts of a whole, segments, items in a list, unit of length measurement equal to a single finger joint (1~2 cm)

- **reo**: classifier for meals

- **loi**: classifier for pairs of things or things that come in two parts, especially if symmetrical

- **eol**: classifier for flat, flexible things such as leaves or pieces of paper

- **ira**: classifier for branching things such as feathers or palm fronds

- **ili**: classifier for undistinguished masses or plural nouns, *never* used with numerals

- **pei**: classifier for cups or beverages, a unit of measurement equal to a traditional Seoina teacup (~100 mL)

- **dai**: classifier for a group of ten of something

Classifiers appear linking nouns with numbers, demonstratives, and possessors. With numbers, the plural classifier **ili** is never used.

(48)   **Alia sor ia istoura haqiara.**

al	-ia	sor	ia	isto-	ra	hauqi	-ra
arrive	3P.I.PST	*two*	CL	*friend*	NOM	*guest*	NOM

"Two friendly guests arrived."

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(49) **Salauda peu a fo uo teoi.**

saula	-da	peu	a	fo	uo	teoi
saula	ABL	INF	*eat*	*this*	CL	*fruit*

"Saula wants to each this piece of fruit."

(50) **Hisira ho s'ia istoura sadia sia lei teun.**

hisi	-ra	=ho	s=	ia	isto	-ra	sad	-ia	sia	lei	teun
child	NOM	*and*	3S.I	CL	*friend*	NOM	*throw*	3P.I.NPST	3P.I	CL	*fish*

"The child and his friends throw their fish."

Definite nouns in non-subject positions take classifiers, but bare nouns in pre-verbal subject position can be interpreted as definite.

(51)

(52) **Hisira sousias lei tida.**

hisi	-ra	sos	-ias	lei	tik	-da
child	NOM	*fall*	3S.I.PST	CL	*tree*	ABL

"The child fell from the tree."

(53) **Hisira sousias tida.**

hisi	-ra	sos	-ias	tik	-da
child	NOM	*fall*	3S.I.PST	*tree*	ABL

"The child fell from a tree."

(54) **Lei tida sousias hisira**

lei	tik	-da	sos	-ias	hisi	-ra
CL	*tree*	ABL	*fall*	3S.I.PST	*child*	NOM

"A child fell from the tree."

Repeating a classifier gives the sense of *'every piece of, every bit of'*.

(55) **Loimaura mias sek sek askoe.**

loima	-ra	m	-ias	sek~sek	askoe
Loima	NOM	*eat*	3S.I.PST	CL RDP	*couscous*

"Loima ate every grain of couscous."

4.4   Adjectives

Seoina does not have a distinct adjective class, but freely uses nouns attributively. Certain nouns that refer to individuals in certain states or things with certain properties are more likely to be used attributively, but there is no clear distingushing factor. For example, **kala** can mean either *'happy'* or *'a happy person.'*

(56)   **Loimaura han kala.**

loima -ra   han   kala
Loima NOM   *very*   *happy*

"Loima is very happy."
Or: "Loima is a very happy person."
Or: "Loima is very much a happy person."

(57)   **Kalau hisia isto.**

kala   -u   hisi -i   isto
happy DAT   *child* DAT   *friend*

"The happy child has friends."

(58)   **Leora tos.**

leo   -ra   tos
sun   NOM   *clear*

"The sun is shining."

(59)   **Tosa leora siftisi deo ku min.**

tos   -a   leo -ra   sifti -si   deo   ku   min
clear NOM   *fall* 3S.III.NPST   *sun*   NOM   *in*   CL   *city*

"The bright sun is falling on the city."
Or: "The sun shines bright on the city."

Words used as adjectives can undergo left-branch extraction and can split from the noun they modify by second-position clitics.

(60)   **Istoura fo alia haqiara.**

isto   -ra   =fo   al   -ia   hauqi -ra
friendly -NOM   *here*   *arrive* 3P.I.PST   *guest* NOM

"Some friendly guests arrived."

4.5   Diminutives

Diminutives are formed with the suffix **-i**. Some speakers also front the last vowel of the word. Diminutives stress the small size, cuteness, or youth of the noun.

(61) **Wam po del.**

wak	-m	po	del
see	1S.NPST	CL	*mouse*

"I see the mouse."

(62) **Wam po deili.**

wak	-m	po	del	-i
see	1S.NPST	CL	*mouse*	DIM

"I see the little mouse."
Or: "I see the baby mouse."

4.6 Pronouns

Seoina pronouns mark person, number and case as well as noun class for third-person referents. All people are referred to with the the class **I** pronouns. Classes **II-IV** do not have plural pronouns. Inanimate plural nouns are referred to with the class **V** pronouns if they end in a front vowel and class **VI** pronouns if the end in a back vowel. Since class **IV** nouns are mostly locations, they are often referred to using locative clitics **fo** and **lua** instead of object pronouns. The third-person plural absolutive and nominative forms are merged.

Full pronouns may be used when stressed, as subjects of null-copula constructions, in isolation (such as when answering questions), or when a clitic pronoun is blocked from appearing. Clitic pronouns appear as second-position clitics and can represent direct or indirect objects.

	Singular		Plural	
	Full	Clitic	Full	Clitic
1	aun	na	auma	ma
2	lai	la	ama	ma
3I	sia	si	iara	ra
3II	te	te		
3III	si	si		
3IV	ku	ku		
3V	hia	hi	iara	ra
3VI	heua	heu	euara	ra

The first-person pronominal clitics cannot follow the third-person clitics. For sentences with first-person direct objects and third-person indirect objects there are two repair strategies: to use a stressed pronoun instead of a clitic pronoun or to replace the third-person indirect object with the locative clitic **lua**.

(63)

(64) **Maksiara na ra sadias.**

Maksi	-ra	=na	=ra	sad	-ias
Maksi	NOM	1S	3P	*throw*	3S.I.PST

"Maksi suggested them to me."

(65) *__Maksiara ra na sadias.__

    Maksi -ra   =ra =na   sad   -ias
    Maksi NOM   3P   1S   *throw* 3S.I.PST

    Intended: "Maksi suggested me to them."

(66) __Maksiara ra sadias aun.__

    Maksi -ra   =ra   sad   -ias   aun
    Maksi NOM   3P *throw* 3S.I.PST   1S.ABS

    "Maksi suggested me to them."

(67) __Maksiara lua'n sadias.__

    Maksi -ra   =lua   =na   sad   -ias
    Maksi NOM *there* 1S *throw* 3S.PST

    "Maksi suggested me to them."

Some speakers also disallow first-person clitics following full third-person pronouns.

(68)

(69) __Maksiara na ra sadias.__

    Maksi -ra   =na =ra   sad   -ias
    Maksi NOM   1S   3P *throw* 3S.I.PST

    "Maksi suggested them to me."

(70) ?__Iara na ra sadias.__

    iara   =na =ra   sad   -ias
    3S.I.NOM   1S   3P *throw* 3S.I.PST

    "She suggested them to me."

(71) __Iara ra sadias aunu.__

    iara   =ra   sad   -ias   aun -u
    3S.I.NOM   3P *throw* 3S.I.PST   1S   DAT

    "She suggested them to me."

4.7 Complement Clauses

When a verb takes a proposition as an argument, that is expressed using a complement clause, introduced with a complementizer. There are six complementizers, selected by the person of the subject and whether or not the complement is factive.

Person	Factive	Non-factive
1	an	ken
2	al	kel
3	as	ka

Factive complementizers are used when the speaker presupposes that the proposition expressed in the complement clause is true.

(72) **Aunu is aq tiqa soumai.**

aunu	is	as	tiq	-a	som	-ai
1s.DAT	*knowledge*	CMP.FCT	*tree*	NOM	*fall*	3s.V.PST

"I know that the tree fell."

(73) **Auna tos fia as lua Maksi alias d'oure.**

aun	-a	tos	fia	as	=lua	Maksi	al	-ias	d=	oure
1s	NOM	*clear*	*lung*	CMP.FCT	*there*	*Maksi*	*arrive*	3s.I.PST	*in*	*house*

"I'm happy that Maksi made it home."

Non-factive complementizers are used when the speaker does not presuppose that it is true.

(74) **Siara li kiapas ken auna d'oure?**

sia	-ra	=li	kiap	-as	ken	aun	-a	d=	oure
3s	NOM	Q	*think*	3s.I.NPST	CMP.1NFCT	1s	NOM	*in*	*house*

"Does she think I'm at home?"

(75) **So peim peu kiapa ka n'ia toura touto.**

so	pei	-m	peu	kiapa	ka	n=	ia	tos	-a
before	*tend.to*	1s.PST	INF	*think*	CMP.NFCT	1s	CL	*teacher*	NOM

touto
speaker's.uncle

"I used to think my teacher was my uncle."

Some verbs may take factive or non-factive complementizers depending on the context surrounding their complement.

(76) Context: I came and found you on the docks. We both know you were there. Later you ask me how I knew you would be on the docks.
Salaura na gokias al lua laira d'emot.

Saula	-ra	=na	gok	-ias	al	=lua	lai	-ra	d=	emot
Saula	NOM	1s	*tell*	3s.I.PST	CMP.2FCT	*there*	2s	NOM	*in*	*patience*

"Saula told me you were waiting there."

(77) Context: I went looking for you at the docks, but I couldn't find you, so I don't know if you were really there or not. You ask me why I thought you might be at the docks.
Salaura na gokias kel lua laira d'emot.

Saula	-ra	=na	gok	-ias	kel	=lua	lai	-ra	d=	emot
Saula	NOM	1s	*tell*	3s.I.PST	CMP.2NFCT	*there*	2s	NOM	*in*	*patience*

"Saula told me you were waiting there."

5   Lexicon

5.1   Kinship Terms

Most Seoina kinship terms consist of two parts: one part indicating the section of the family that a relation belongs to and another part indicating their relative age and gender. Seoina divide the extended family into family groups called **lar**. One **lar** is generally a nuclear family: your mother's sister's family is your **folar**, your mother's brother's family is your **naular**, your father's sister's family is your **lenlar**, your father's brother's family is your **telar**, your sister's family is your **silar** and your brother's family is your **dolar**. Two exceptional **lar** are your **salar** and your **tilar**, which are your maternal grandparents and their siblings, and your paternal grandparents and their siblings, respectively.

The prefix denoting the family member's **lar** comes before one of several words for relations, including **do** for brothers and male cousins, **si** for sisters and female cousins, **to** for uncles and great-uncles, **mei** for aunts and great-aunts, **na** for mothers and grandmothers, and **ta** for fathers and grandfathers. Family members are addressed by reduplicating the relationship word without the **lar** prefix. For example, your mother's aunt is your **samei** and your father's sister is your **lenmei** but you'd address both as **meimei**. These reduplicated forms can sometimes be used in conversatio to refer to the speaker's relations.

5.2   Sound Symbolism in Movement Predicates

Seoina has a series of movement predicates that show sound symbolism describing the thing moving, the path, and the type of motion. Especially duing storytelling, speakers may coin new motion predicates freely, broadly adhering to the following rules:

- Initial /s/ marks free motion such as falling or being thrown, for example **sos** *'to fall past or through an obstruction'* or **som** *'to fall and hit something, to thud'*

- Initial /j/ marks movement by foot such as **yeira** *'to walk'* or **yayeoi** *'to wander back and forth'*

- The sound /f/ and the cluster /ft/ are associated with flight, for example **ftirere** *'to fly away suddenly'* or **ftifteoi** *'to flit back and forth'*

- Syllable-final /s/ marks movement through an obstruction or brushing against something, for example **sos** *'to fall past or through an obstruction'*

- Word-final /m/ or /g/ mark an abrupt end to the movement or a loud, dull noise made by the object hitting something, for example **som** *'to fall and hit something, to thud'*

- Front unrounded vowels tend to correlate with smaller moving objects and back rounded objects tend to correlate with larger moving objects

- The sound /l/ is associated with slow movement, movement through water, or in storytelling with a 'sense of time slowing down,' for example **salom** *'to fall slowly and thud against something'*

- Reduplication, especially with ABB forms, can indicate speed or suddenness, such as **ftirere** *'to fly away suddenly'* or **keusoso** *'to crash through something'*

- The template CaCeoi, with repeating consonants or clusters suggests a zigzagging motion, such as **ftifteoi** *'to flit back and forth'* or **yayeoi** *'to wander back and forth'*

5.3 Wordlist

A

ada (VI, uo) *n.* hunger, an appetite
al *vb.* to arrive, to get somewhere, to be capable of doing something
aloi *part.* like that, so, then (in conditionals)
ama *prn.* second person plural pronoun, you, y'all
askoe (V, ili/sek) *n.* a grain dish consisting of small round bits of pasta, similar to pearl couscous
atsiara *vb.* to pay, to give money

D

deo *prep.* in, on, at, into, onto
del (I, po) *n.* a mouse, something evasive, something nimble
diaqeo, diqeoira (I, uo) *n.* a pomegranate, a difficult problem, a complicated solution, use **sek diaqeo** for an individual pomegranate pip
doei, doeria *vb.* to give
    sadoei, sadeoria *vb.* to gift someone with, to furnish something, to provide someone with
dou, dolra (II, te) *n.* a plate, especially a plate for an individual to eat off of

E

ela, elaura (VI, ili) *n.* some wine, an alcoholic drink
    elauki (I, ia) *n.* a drunk person, a tipsy person
emot (VI, uo) *n.* some patience, some waiting
eoi *prep.* without, lacking, outside of a norm or convention, far away from
es *vb.* to drink, to relax

F

f- *part.* none, not any, no (declines for noun class)
fai, faira (V, uo/loi) *n.* a lung, some lungs, an emotion, a feeling
    haluaki fai (V, uo) *n.* a stressed person, a worried person (*lit.* 'heavy lung')
    mani fai (V, uo) *n.* a sad person, a melancholy person (*lit.* 'thick lung')
    ron fai (V, uo) *n.* a relaxed person (*lit.* 'slow lung')
    tos fai (V, uo) *n.* a happy person, a joyous person (*lit.* 'clear lung')

fenda *vb.* to win, to succeed, to get a reward
fian, fin' *prep.* without
fo *part.* here, local visible deictic *second position clitic*
ftiere, ftireira (V, uo) *n.* an olive, something made with olives

G

gau *part.* but, linking two contrasting statements
gou, gokia *vb.* to say, to tell, to inform (often used with expletive **fo** or **lua**)
gunia, guniaura (VI, eol) *n.* paper or parchment, set of information about a person or topic, field of study

H

hau, haula (VI, uo) *n.* a weight, a difficulty
    haluaki (V, uo) *n.* something heavy, something difficult, one's earthly soul
hauqi, haqiara (I, ia) *n.* a guest, an invited one, a welcome one
haura *prep.* for, to, in order to, periphrastic near future tense
heia, heaura (II, te) *n.* a table
heuasa, heusaura (VI, pi) *n.* a game, a contest, an informal thing, a fun thing
hialo, hiloura (VI, uo) *n.* a starchy unfilled dumpling, similar to gnocchi or spätzle
hisi (I, ia) *n.* a child (old enough to speak), a small one
ho *part.* and (nominal conjunction)
hos *part.* all (declines for noun class)

I

ia *cl.* classifier for people
ili *cl.* classifier for mass nouns or plurals of count nouns
is (V, uo) *n.* an idea, a clue, some knowledge, some information
isto, istoura (I, ia) *n.* a friend, a friendly person, a kind and known person

K

kala (I, ia) *n.* a happy person, a fortunate person
    kalau(VI, uo) *n.* happiness, fortune
kas *prn.* when, at what time, *abl.* since when, from when on, *dat.* to when, until when
kel, keira *prn.* what, which
ki *part.* three (numeral)
kiap *vb.* to think, to believe
ko *vb.* to help (+DAT) (durative)
    sko *vb.* to help (+DAT) (punctual)

ku *cl.* classifier for places, locations, spaces, settlements

L

lei *cl.* classifier for long or tall things
lesta *vb.* to cook, especially by steaming, blanching, or boiling, to support someone, to run a household
leie, leira (I, ia) *n.* a self, someone's self, someone's identity
　　leiaki (I, ia) *n.* someone with a strong sense of self, one's personal soul
lua *part.* there, distal non-visible deictic *second-position clitic*

M

a, mia *vb.* to eat, to consume
min (IV, ku) *n.* a city, a settlement
meo *part.* no, not (second position clitic)
meleiqe *n.* a type of honey containing a psychoactive pollen which is consumed in small amounts as a stimulant and large amounts as a hallucinogen, something intoxicating (often used as an epithet for a lover
mos, mora (VI, lei) *n.* a sausage, a sausage link

N

na *part.* infinitive particle marking mismatch between agent of matrix clause and the agent of the infinitive (see section 3.4)
nou (I, ia) *n.* a person, a human, something human

O

ou, ouria *vb.* to read, to study, to learn through books
　　sou, souria *vb.* to finish reading, to read up, to finish a book
oure (IV, ku) *n.* a house, an inhabited building, **(IV, uo)** a home, a place of comfort

P

pei *vb.* to tend to do something, to usually do something
peu *part.* marks the infinitive form of a verb (see section 3.4)

Q

qa (II, te) *n.* a fork, a branching thing, a forking thing, something stuck in something else
qano, qanoula (VI, lei) *n.* an oak tree, something made of oak
qanouda (IV, ku) *n.* an oak pasture used agriculturally, *una dehesa*
qouli, qoliara (V, uo) *n.* an impression, something apparent, something approximate

S

sa *prep.* with a tool, with a person, in a group of people or tribe
sad *vb.* to throw something, to suggest an idea
saugon, sagonra (VI, uo) *n.* a tomato
se *prn.* who, whom (used as a question word or relative pronoun for people)
seiku *prn.* where, to where, from where (used as a question word or relative pronoun for places or situations)
si *prn.* third-person singular class I pronoun, he, she
si *part.* really, in fact, for sure, emphatic positive (second position clitic)
so *adv.* before, already, earlier
som *vb.* to fall and hit something, to fall (of large objects), to thud
sos, sousia *vb.* to fall, especially through or past something that lightly resists
suaneu, suneuara (V, ili) *n.* some oatmeal, some porridge, some mush

T

tam (I, ia) *n.* a man, a male one
te *cl.* classifier for tools, furniture, vehicles, residue classifier for class II
teoi (I, uo) *n.* a piece of fruit, some fruit
teoi (III, loi) *n.* a book (use of **loi** is by metonymy with the covers)
teun, teuara (I, lei) *n.* a fish, a cold-blooded thing, a cold-blooded person (idiomatic)
tia *vb.* to add, to embellish, to help, to positively improve, (prefix) step- (in kinship terms)
tig, tiqa (V, lei) *n.* a tree, a pole, a pillar, something prominent
tomu *part.* never, not ever (second position clitic)
tou, ton, tonia *vb.* auxiliary marking the passive voice
tos, toura (I, ia) *n.* a teacher, an instructor, a mentor
tos, tousa (VI, uo) *n.* something clear, something bright, something flowing, something easy
　　tosuaki (I, ia) *n.* one's life force or invigorating soul
tsaita, tsataura (I, ia) *n.* a loner, a person who does not enjoy the company of others (without a connotation of being misanthropic as much as one of being introverted)
tsau, tsaura (I, ia) *n.* a boy, especially mischevous
tsusiara (V, uo) *n.* something or someone well-known, a place someone feels at-home in
　　sa tsusiara *adv.* done with muscle memory
tunieu, tunieuara (VI, uo) *n.* something loose, something leaky, something that doesn't fit well together **(I, ia)** someone forgetful or absent-minded

U

uan *prep.* after, moving behind/following something, used in periphrastic perfect aspect
uo *cl.* classifier for round things, residue classifier for inanimates

W

wak, wan, wakia *vb.* to see something, to acknowledge someone, to find something